Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for providing Web services comprising the steps of:

configuring a computer system including at least one memory and at least one processor to carry out the following steps:

registering a Web service with a service registry;

conveying the Web service to a service provider;

installing the Web service within a service environment having a gateway;

receiving a request for the Web service from a service user, wherein the user has selected the Web service from the service registry, wherein said request is received within an application server disposed within an application environment, and wherein said application environment is an open Internet environment and wherein said service environment is at least one of a trusted network environment and a secure network environment;

executing a servlet to establish a communication pathway between the application server and the gateway;

conveying service-initiating information to the gateway, the service-initiating information specifying the requested Web service;

initiating within said gateway a function specific component that is specific to the requested Web service and a generic service component that is applicable to multiple Web services;

accessing said requested Web service across the gateway by utilizing the component;

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conveying information from the Web service via the gateway to the application server; and

transporting service data for said Web service from the application server disposed in said application environment to the service user.

2-4   (Cancelled).

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, said accessing step further comprises the step of:

conveying information between the gateway and the application environment using a Common Request Broker Architecture.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

responsive to receiving the request for the Web service, executing at least one Java servlet within said application environment that initiates said accessing step.

7-25.   (Cancelled).

26.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for providing Web services comprising:

at least one memory; and

at least one processor configured to:

register a Web service with a service registry;

convey the Web service to a service provider;

install the Web service within a service environment having a gateway;

receive a request for the Web service from a service user, wherein the user has selected the Web service from the service registry, wherein said request is

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received within an application server disposed within an application environment, and wherein said application environment is an open Internet environment and wherein said service environment is at least one of a trusted network environment and a secure network environment;

execute a servlet to establish a communication pathway between the application server and the gateway;

convey service-initiating information to the gateway, the service-initiating information specifying the requested Web service;

initiate within the gateway a function specific component that is specific to the requested Web service and a generic service component that is applicable to multiple Web services;

access the requested Web service across the gateway by utilizing the component;

convey information from the Web service via the gateway to the application server; and

transport service data for the Web service from the application server disposed in the application environment to the service user

~~a computer functioning as a service registry for registering a Web service installed within a service environment;~~

~~a computer functioning as an application server configured to distribute said Web service to a service user upon receiving a request from the service user, where the user has selected the Web service from the service registry, wherein said application server is disposed within an application environment, and wherein the application environment is an open Internet environment and wherein said service environment is at least one of a trusted network environment and a secure network environment; and~~

~~a gateway between said application server and the service environment for accessing the requested Web service installed within the service environment and for~~

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~~conveying information from the Web service to the application server, wherein the gateway further comprises a function specific component configured specifically for the requested Web service and a generic service component that is applicable to multiple Web services.~~

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein said Web service is associated with a Web Service Definition Language definition.

28.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein said application server further comprises an application engine configured to execute modular server-side applications.

29.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein said application server further comprises a component engine configured to provide interface routines for the applications of said application engine.

30.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, further comprising:

a communication link for exchanging Web service data between said gateway and said application server, wherein said communication link utilizes a Common Object Request Broker Architecture.

31.   (Cancelled).

32.   (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

registering a Web service with a service registry;

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conveying the Web service to a service provider;

installing the Web service within a service environment having a gateway;

receiving a request for the Web service from a service user, wherein the user has selected the Web service from the service registry, wherein said request is received within an application server disposed within an application environment, and wherein said application environment is an open Internet environment and wherein said service environment is at least one of a trusted network environment and a secure network environment;

executing a servlet to establish a communication pathway between the application server and the gateway;

conveying service-initiating information to the gateway, the service-initiating information specifying the requested Web service;

initiating within said gateway a function specific component that is specific to the requested Web service and a generic service component that is applicable to multiple Web services;

accessing said requested Web service across the gateway by utilizing the component;

conveying information from the Web service via the gateway to the application server; and

transporting service data for said Web service from the application server disposed in said application environment to the service user.

33-34. (Cancelled).

35.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 32, said accessing step further comprises the step of:

conveying information between the gateway and the application environment

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using a Common Request Broker Architecture.

36.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 32, further comprising the step of:

responsive to receiving the request for the Web service, executing at least one Java servlet within said application environment that initiates said accessing step.

37.   (Cancelled).

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said gateway is a Parlay gateway.

39.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein said gateway is a Parlay gateway.

40.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 32, wherein said gateway is a Parlay gateway.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the servlet is executed within the application environment.